

IV. Remarks

Claims 1-36 were originally filed in the present application. The Examiner has indicated that claims 23-36 are allowed, and that claims 8-13, 15-17 and 22 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim.

In the present paper, claims 1 and 14 have been amended, and claims 12 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Thus, claims 1-11, 13-21 and 23-36 remain pending in the present application.

Reconsideration of this application in light of these amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 14

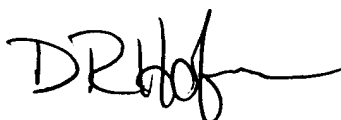
Claims 1 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,722,318 to Hamerly, et al. ("Hamerly"). However, because the Examiner indicated that previously-pending claims 13 and 22 (among others) recite allowable subject matter, and solely in an effort to expedite prosecution while withholding comment on the patentability of these claims in view of Hamerly, claims 1 and 14 are presently amended to include the context of claims 13 and 22, respectively. Thus, per the Examiner's indication, claims 1 and 14 are allowable over Hamerly.

Moreover, dependent claims 2-7 and 18-21 depend from and further limit independent claims 1 or 14. Consequently, these claims are also allowable over Hamerly.

V. Conclusion

In view of all of the above, the allowance of claims 1-12, 14-21 and 23-36 is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

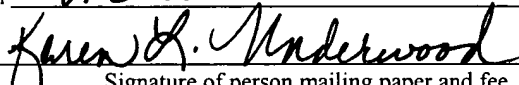
Respectfully submitted,



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Dated: 2/3/05

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